

Local Office will now Accept Passport Applications Thanks to Slaughter's Efforts

Tonawanda, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today joined Town of Tonawanda Town Clerk Melissa Brinson and local officials to open the area's newest passport office in the Ken-Ton Municipal Building. The new office will serve as an alternative to current passport facilities located in select post offices and will serve area residents by appointment.

Slaughter, along with Tonawanda Town Clerk Melissa Brinsonve, worked to ensure the office would remain open and expend services.

"While any U.S. citizen can apply for a passport, this office will be particularly convenient for residents of Kenmore and Tonawanda who will be able to contact the Town Clerk's office and make an appointment. I'm so delighted to do my part in making this day possible," said Slaughter who was instrumental in the office opening. "I have said many times in Western New York that we don't think of the bi-national Niagara region as two countries but as one community with a river running through it. Cross-border tourism and trade supports thousands of local jobs and pumps millions of dollars into our regional economy. That is why I am proud because this passport facility marks a commitment from the Town of Tonawanda to make certain that Western New York remains an international gateway for tourism and trade."

"Passports have become a necessity for the residents and children of the Kenmore-Tonawanda community because of our proximity to Canadian border crossings," said Brinson who has established an on-going initiative to improve services for local residents. "I want to particularly thank Congresswoman Slaughter for interceding when the passport facility was in trouble. Because of her efforts convincing the State Department to allow this facility to open as planned, the residents of Kenmore and Tonawanda have a passport facility closer to home and a portion of the passport fees will come to Tonawanda, rather than another government entity."

Slaughter was instrumental in the office's opening. After Tonawanda Town Clerk Melissa Brinson had allocated public funds for the project, and met all of the National Passport Center's conditions, the U.S. State Department threatened to pull out of the agreement that would setup the facility. In March, Slaughter contacted the National Passport Center and convinced the U.S. State Department to honor an agreement with the Town of Tonawanda.

Slaughter Opens Town of Tonawanda Passport Office

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“After learning about Tonawanda’s situation this past March, I could not let such an influential project go to waste,” said Slaughter. “I was more than happy to facilitate the process of authorizing the Clerk’s office to become a passport agent.”

The new passport facility is located in the Tonawanda Town Clerk’s Office in the Ken-Ton Municipal Building, 2919 Delaware Ave., Room14 in Kenmore. To make an appointment call Town Clerk’s Office at (716) 877-8800 ext. 506

Passport forms, passport fees breakdown, and information on how to apply and more can be found on the Department of State’s official website for passport and travel information, www.travel.state.gov

The standard fees for the Passport are the same as any other acceptance facility, (i.e. post office or municipal office) the difference is the Town of Tonawanda is the beneficiary of the \$25 execution fees portion.